

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. HERBERT FISHER, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 86TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate New Bern, North Carolina residents Zelmyra and Herbert Fisher, Sr. on 86 years of marriage—the longest marriage of a living couple in the world.

Mrs. Zelmyra Fisher, born on December 10, 1907, and Mr. Herbert Fisher, Sr., born on June 10, 1905, have been married since 1924. In that year, Calvin Coolidge was President; New York taxis cost 10 cents per half-mile; the Teapot Dome Scandal broke; the Ford Model T was the most popular automobile; and a postage stamp cost 2 cents while bread cost 9 cents a loaf.

In 1942, Mr. Fisher built what would become the family's home in the James City neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher would raise five children in that home, and continue to live there today. The couple met in elementary school and married when he was 19 years old and she was 18 years old, and they have shared 86 blissful years.

On Valentine's Day this year, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher gave free marriage advice on Twitter. When asked to share the best marriage advice they've received, they advised couples to "respect, support and communicate with each other. Be faithful, honest and true. Love each other with all of your heart."

Mr. Fisher, a retired worker from the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, has a great passion for baseball, especially for his two favorite teams, the New York Yankees and the Atlanta Braves. Mrs. Fisher, a retired caretaker, greatly enjoys reading the Bible.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have contributed a lifetime of service to the fabric of their community through various community organizations and their respective churches, Jones Chapel A.M.E. Zion and Pilgrim Chapel Missionary Baptist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Zelmyra and Herbert Fisher, Sr. on the blessing of 86 years of marriage. They serve as a wonderful and enduring inspiration of love, family and sacrifice.

92ND ANNIVERSARY OF
AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, celebrated on May 28th.

Located in a highly political, dynamic and sensitive region between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a proud ally of the United States. An emerging democracy, Azerbaijan has taken the world stage as a member of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A strategic partner of the United States, Azerbaijan works with the U.S. on major economic and security matters. Most profoundly, Azerbaijan has been an ally for the United States in terms of sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. They work with area nations to secure borders and deny illegal trafficking, and are an important component of NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Their robust oil market provides western nations the means to power our economies.

I thank the nation of Azerbaijan for their continued journey towards democracy, and for their enduring strategic partnership in the region and around the world.

The United States congratulates all Azerbaijani citizens, and Azerbaijanis around the world, on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of Azerbaijan Republic Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall 260. I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" in support of H.R. 5014, a bill that clarifies that health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets minimum essential coverage requirements for individual health insurance under the newly enacted health care reform law. Our Nation's veterans and their families have sacrificed so much and it is our obligation to ensure they receive the benefits and health care they so rightly deserve.

HONORING THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK FOR THE ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution honoring and expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut, as well as Federal authorities, to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square on May 1, 2010, their exceptional professionalism and investigative work following the attempted attack, and their consistent commitment to preparedness for and collective response to terrorism.

Just less than 54 hours is what it took for Federal law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, to identify, find, and apprehend Mr. Faisal Shahzad, the prime suspect for this attempted act of terror.

During the 54 hours, the New York Police Department, working with Federal and State law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others identified and began unraveling the tangled web that eventually led to Mr. Shahzad's arrest. This arrest could not have been made without the help of several people and organizations.

First, I commend the alertness and awareness of Mr. Lance Orton and Mr. Duane Jackson for "seeing something" and "saying something" to law enforcement. If it were not for these citizens, many others could have been hurt and Mr. Shahzad might not have been apprehended. This is the kind of vigilance is vital to our homeland security efforts.

Second, I want to thank the citizens of New York for helping and cooperating with law enforcement during the precautionary evacuations in the vicinity of Times Square. I also want to acknowledge New Yorkers and their resilient nature and ability to return to life as normal.

Third, I want to express my deep appreciation for the professionalism and collective response of the following law enforcement agencies: New York City Police Department, in particular Police Officer Wayne Rhatigan of Mounted Unit Troop B, the Fire Department of New York, the New York Police Department Bomb Squad, led by Lieutenant Mark Torre and other first responders, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the New York Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Bridgeport Police Department, Detective Bureau, Patrol Division, and other law enforcement agencies in Connecticut.

Finally, I want to say that without these citizens and the collaborative effort of law enforcement, we would not have the mountain of evidence we have now, including two additional unnamed suspects in custody. It is also more likely true that according to the Attorney General, the Pakistani Taliban was likely involved in planning this attempted attack. As such, we must remain vigilant against terrorism and our enemies.

Madam Speaker, while I know others may say that we just got lucky this time, I say that they are missing the point. Our post-9/11 efforts to foster greater vigilance among our citizens and a culture of preparedness and collaboration among first responders and law enforcement paid off. Further, we stayed true to our cherished constitutional principals as we initiated this wide-scale collective response to terrorism. As evidenced by what we saw on May 2, 2010, the citizens of New York and this great country are and remain committed to living their lives in the pursuit of the cherished tradition we have celebrated since our country's start and that is the pursuit of freedom.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Boy Scouts of America on their 100th anniversary and to pay tribute to the impact scouting has had on the lives of countless young men over the past century. As members of the Hiawathaland Council in Michigan's Upper Peninsula gather this weekend to celebrate the Boy Scouts' centennial, I